

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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**CONTACTS:
Dena Graziano: (202) 225-2022**

CONYERS URGES REV. JERRY FALWELL TO SEEK UNITY

Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) issued the following statement in response to the Rev. Jerry Falwell's remarks that the American Civil Liberties Union, pro-choice advocates, gay rights proponents, and the federal court system had a role in the terrorist attacks of September 11:

"Rev. Jerry Falwell has once again demonstrated his extremism by irrationally blaming the American Civil Liberties Union, pro-choice advocates, gay rights proponents, and the federal court system for the horrific and vile terrorist attacks of September 11. Rather than supporting efforts to hunt down and bring to justice the true perpetrators of Tuesday's atrocities, I am concerned that Rev. Falwell has chosen instead to use this tragedy to advance his own political agenda.

"At this time when America is in mourning and our national unity is more critical than ever, we must not engage in scapegoating of domestic groups that have no connection whatsoever to the terrorist attacks. Since 1920, the American Civil Liberties Union has tirelessly fought to defend the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, whose liberties and freedoms were symbolically attacked on Tuesday. To engage in finger-pointing of our federal courts that strive to uphold justice and domestic groups that advocate for equality and freedom simply makes us more vulnerable to terrorism."

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